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In re application

New York, New York

Shigehito OBA

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FOR: THANK-YOU GIFT ORDER/DISPATCH SYSTEM

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Milton J. Wayne
(Name of Person Mailing)

12/4/2000
(Signature and Date)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above application, please amend the same as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, line 8, after "like," insert --and--;
line 11, change ", in" to --. In--;
line 20, change "other" to --another--.

Page 6, line 13, cancel "the system."

Page 7, line 8, after "agent," insert --and--;

line 14, ~~cancel~~ "has."

Page 9, line 9, change "intermediately" to
--intermediate--.

Page 11, after the last line, insert the following new
paragraph: --Reference to an "event" in the
claims refers to a ceremony, event or the
like. ~~A4~~

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-8, and add new claims 9-14, as follows:

1. (Amended) A thank-you gift order/dispatch [system]
method, comprising the steps of: [wherein firstly]
first distributing books of thank-you gifts [are
distributed] to customers attending [a ceremony,] an event [or
the like],
then having the customers notify [the] a thank-you gift
information administrator of at least one of names and numbers
assigned to chosen thank-you gifts, [either] via one of the
following ways:
- a) through [the] a management of [a ceremony or] a
site of the event [site or], and
 - b) directly, [of the names or numbers assigned to
chosen thank-you gifts, in succession]
having the thank-you gift information administrator

[gives] give an instruction to a thank-you gift dispatch agent based on at least one of the names [or] and numbers of said chosen thank-you gifts so that said chosen thank-you gifts are dispatched to the customers.

2. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch [system] method of claim 1, [wherein said thank-you gift information administrator stores] further comprising the steps of:

storing information regarding at least [the] addresses and names of the customers in a computer memory in advance by said thank-you gift information administrator, and

making an enquiry to the customer by the administrator in the event that a customer fails to communicate regarding at least one of the name [or] and number of a chosen thank-you gift even after a predetermined period of time, [the administrator makes an enquiry to the customer,] based on an output signal from a computer, regarding whether the customer intends to receive a thank-you gift or not and at least one of the name [or] and number of a chosen thank-you gift if the customer intends to receive the thank-you gift.

3. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch [system] method of claim 2, [wherein if the customer still fails to reply within a certain period,] further comprising the step of stopping the administrative process regarding the customer, by said thank-you gift information administrator if the customer still fails to

reply within a certain period [stops the administrative process regarding the customer].

4. (Amended) A thank-you gift order/dispatch [system characterized in that a thank-you gift information administrator stores] method, comprising the steps of:

storing information regarding at least [the] addresses and names of [the] customers in a computer memory in advance by a thank-you gift information administrator, [and]

making an enquiry to the customer by the administrator in the event that a customer fails to communicate regarding at least one of a [the] name [or] and number of a chosen thank-you gift even after a predetermined period of time, and

dispatching a thank-you gift chosen by said thank-you administrator [is dispatched] to the customer based on an output signal from a computer.

5. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch [system] method of claim 4, [wherein] further comprising the step of stopping the administrative process regarding the customer, by said thank-you gift information administrator in the event that the customer still fails to reply within a further certain period since dispatch of the thank-you gift chosen by said thank-you gift information administrator from a thank-you gift dispatch agent[, said thank-you gift information administrator stops the administrative process regarding the customer].

6. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch [system] method of claim 1, [2 and 4,] wherein the books to be distributed are different from each other in terms of [the] one of prices of the thank-you gifts [or] and price ranges of the thank-you gifts.

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7. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch [system] method of claim 1, [2 and 4, wherein] further comprising the step of classifying thank-you gift dispatch agents [are classified] by region.

8. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch [system] method of claim 1, [2 and 4, wherein] further comprising the step of providing thank-you gift dispatch agents which are different from each other in accordance with the types of thank-you gifts.

Add the following ~~new~~ claims:

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--9. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 2, wherein the books to be distributed are different from each other in terms of one of prices of the thank-you gifts and price ranges of the thank-you gifts.

10. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 2, further comprising the step of classifying thank-you gift dispatch agents by region.

11. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing thank-you gift dispatch agents which are different from each other in accordance with the types of thank-you gifts.

12. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 4, further comprising the step of distributing books of thank-you gifts to customers attending an event, with the books to be distributed being different from each other in terms of one of prices of the thank-you gifts and price ranges of the thank-you gifts.

13. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

having the thank-you gift information administrator give an instruction to a thank-you gift dispatch agent so that said chosen thank-you gifts are dispatched to the customers, and classifying thank-you gift dispatch agents by region.

14. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

having the thank-you gift information administrator give an instruction to a thank-you gift dispatch agent so that said chosen thank-you gifts are dispatched to the customers, and providing thank-you gift dispatch agents which are different from each other in accordance with the types of thank-

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R E M A R K S

Claims 1-14 are now in this application, and are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

The claims have been amended to correct various informalities therein. Specifically, the claims were originally written in method format. Thus, the claims have been amended as method claims and positively recite each step, starting with an active verb. Also, the claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitations therein.

In addition, amended claims 6-8 eliminate all multiple dependencies. For this reason, claims 9-14 have been added.


A clean copy of claims 1-14 is provided in Appendix A for the Examiner's convenience.

In addition, the specification has been amended to correct various informalities.

It is hoped that this Preliminary Amendment will facilitate an examination of the application on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

1. (Amended) A thank-you gift order/dispatch method, comprising the steps of:

first distributing books of thank-you gifts to customers attending an event,

then having the customers notify a thank-you gift information administrator of at least one of names and numbers assigned to chosen thank-you gifts, via one of the following ways:

- a) through a management of a site of the event,
- and
- b) directly,

having the thank-you gift information administrator give an instruction to a thank-you gift dispatch agent based on at least one of the names and numbers of said chosen thank-you gifts so that said chosen thank-you gifts are dispatched to the customers.

2. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing information regarding at least addresses and names of the customers in a computer memory in advance by said thank-you gift information administrator, and

making an enquiry to the customer by the administrator in the event that a customer fails to communicate regarding at least one of the name and number of a chosen thank-you gift even after a predetermined period of time, based on an output signal

from a computer, regarding whether the customer intends to receive a thank-you gift or not and at least one of the name and number of a chosen thank-you gift if the customer intends to receive the thank-you gift.

3. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 2, further comprising the step of stopping the administrative process regarding the customer, by said thank-you gift information administrator if the customer still fails to reply within a certain period.

4. (Amended) A thank-you gift order/dispatch method, comprising the steps of:

storing information regarding at least addresses and names of customers in a computer memory in advance by a thank-you gift information administrator,

making an enquiry to the customer by the administrator in the event that a customer fails to communicate regarding at least one of a name and number of a chosen thank-you gift even after a predetermined period of time, and

dispatching a thank-you gift chosen by said thank-you administrator to the customer based on an output signal from a computer.

5. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 4, further comprising the step of stopping the

administrative process regarding the customer, by said thank-you gift information administrator in the event that the customer still fails to reply within a further certain period since dispatch of the thank-you gift chosen by said thank-you gift information administrator from a thank-you gift dispatch agent.

6. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 1, wherein the books to be distributed are different from each other in terms of one of prices of the thank-you gifts and price ranges of the thank-you gifts.

7. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 1, further comprising the step of classifying thank-you gift dispatch agents by region.

8. (Amended) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing thank-you gift dispatch agents which are different from each other in accordance with the types of thank-you gifts.

9. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 2, wherein the books to be distributed are different from each other in terms of one of prices of the thank-you gifts and price ranges of the thank-you gifts.

10. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 2, further comprising the step of classifying thank-you gift dispatch agents by region.

11. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing thank-you gift dispatch agents which are different from each other in accordance with the types of thank-you gifts.

12. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 4, further comprising the step of distributing books of thank-you gifts to customers attending an event, with the books to be distributed being different from each other in terms of one of prices of the thank-you gifts and price ranges of the thank-you gifts.

13. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

having the thank-you gift information administrator give an instruction to a thank-you gift dispatch agent so that said chosen thank-you gifts are dispatched to the customers, and classifying thank-you gift dispatch agents by region.

14. (New) The thank-you gift order/dispatch method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

having the thank-you gift information administrator

give an instruction to a thank-you gift dispatch agent so that said chosen thank-you gifts are dispatched to the customers, and providing thank-you gift dispatch agents which are different from each other in accordance with the types of thank-you gifts.